

Balanced approach to coastal parks

THERE has been false information in recent media reports about Yawuru's plans for the future use of the beaches and coastal areas in and around Broome.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the facts concerning proposals to establish conservation parks in and around Broome.

Yawuru do not propose to restrict recreational fishing. We propose only three discrete small areas for Yawuru protection, all of which are ceremonial law grounds. These areas are not used by the

general public and Yawuru expect the public will respect our wish to protect these places.

Yawuru are concerned about cars on the beach, but we want to develop a management approach that is supported by the Shire and the broader community.

The suggestion vehicle access on the beach is an exclusive Yawuru concern is wrong.

There is extensive community disquiet on this issue and the Broome Shire Council has passed resolutions which reflect wider

community concerns about cars on Cable Beach and turtle nesting (see Council Minutes, Broome Shire website, July 2008 and March 2009).

The 2010 Yawuru Native Title Agreement created a partnership between the Yawuru community, the Shire of Broome and the Department Environment and Conservation to develop joint

management plans for the proposed coastal and marine parks — a coastal park, including town reserves and the Cable Beach intertidal zone and a marine park

covering much of Roebuck Bay.

The Yawuru Park Council (made up of DEC, Shire of Broome and Yawuru nominees) will have day-to-day management responsibilities for the conservation areas once the plans have ministerial approval.

The Yawuru Cultural Management Plan, based on cultural knowledge and traditional practice, sets out a vision to inform the long-term protection and management of the parks.

Concerning the conservation

management areas, Yawuru cannot make decisions on our own. We are an integral part of the social fabric of Broome and the positions we take on the Park Council are for the greater good of the whole community.

We support broad consultation and will work with the Shire and the wider community to achieve a balance of cultural, environmental and broad community interests.

Patrick Dodson
Chairman, Yawuru Native Title Holders Corporation

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ROBERT OATLEY

I concede my right to the beach

I AM pleased Aboriginal people are hoping to ban cars on Cable Beach! I am a sometimes-tourist, who lives in Melbourne.

During my visits to Broome it has bothered me to see cars roaring around on the beach.

A beach should be a place of quite contemplation and relaxation, not a race track for lazy people.

Indigenous culture will make Broome a more attractive place for me.

Thank goodness someone values spirituality and natural beauty above money and profit. That is the Australia I want to live in, and to visit.

Chris Sitka
Northcote

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DEAN,
TEAM MEMBER